

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 104878

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PO

SUBJECT: LAJES NEGOTIATIONS

1. IN APRIL 20 CONVERSATION WITH PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR THEMIDO, DEPTOFFS POINTED OUT THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF SIGNING NEW LAJES EXTENSION DURING EANES'S LATE MAY VISIT TO WASHINGTON WAS FAST WANING. GIVEN NEED FOR STAFFING THE EXTENSION WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND FOR CONSULTING WITH CONGRESS, TO SAY NOTHING OF PREPARING FINAL DOCUMENTS, IT WAS DOUBTFUL THAT LATE MAY SIGNATURE WOULD BE POSSIBLE, IF AGREEMENT WERE NOT REACHED BY MAY 1. IN ADDITION, THERE WAS A SEPARATE AND EVEN MORE DIFFICULT PROBLEM OF PUTTING IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION INTO THE FY 1979 BUDGET.

2. ON APRIL 24 THEMIDO TELEPHONED TO SAY HE HAD REPORTED DEPTOFFS REMARKS TO LISBON AND HAD NOW RECEIVED A REPLY. IT SAID THAT CONSULTATIONS WITH AZOREANS WOULD BE CONCLUDED
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VERY SOON AND WOULD BE FOLLOWED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE BY A MEETING WITH US. IT REITERATED GOP INTEREST IN WASHINGTON SIGNING CEREMONY.

3. WHILE OUR PURPOSE IN WARNING AMBASSADOR THEMIDO WAS TO INDUCE A GREATER SENSE OF URGENCY INTO PORTUGUESE NEGOTIATIONS,

TIATIONS, THE REMARKS WE MADE TO HIM WERE ENTIRELY
ACCURATE. THE NATO SUMMIT AND CONGRESSIONAL CALENDAR
WINDOWS WILL SHORTLY CLOSE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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